

Urban Mobility: Voice of the Grass Roots

MOSES

- 80 member congregations; U of M, UDM
- 60 New homes in Detroit
- Safe Zones
- After School Programs
- Mass Transit and Fix it First
- Regional Equity & Interracial Cooperation

Vision Statement

- We want a world class regional mass transit system in Southeast Michigan that includes:
 - coordinated rapid transit linking 5 counties
 - Coordinated bus systems with seamless connections and improved service
 - Coordinated community transit for elderly and handicapped
 - high speed inter city rail links to Chicago and Toledo

Goal and Objective

Transportation options for all our citizens

- Obtain regional, state and federal funding to implement the vision
 - Get DARTA Board to approve vision, plan
 - Get voters in 5 counties to approve new funding measure in 2005.



Today's Situation

- DARTA Board formed in May 2003
 - New services plan by end of 2004
 - Submit to Governor and Legislature by March 2005, including enabling legislation for funding
 - Big 4 have veto power
 - Macomb Reps go to Attorney General and AFSCME sues-- to stop DARTA

How Did We Get Here?

- 1951 P.A. 51 limits gas taxes to 10% for public transit
- 1956 streetcar service ends after 64 years.
- 1983 Commuter rail service ends after 52 years
- In 1958, 1969, 1976, 1979, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1996 and 2001 studies and plans were released calling for a regional rapid transit system in Metro Detroit
- Plans never realized because the political leadership could not agree on funding
- No vote of the people has been taken on this since 1929

Where do we go from here?

Role of organized grass roots efforts

Listening to the people

- 1-1s in congregations
- 100 congregations in 100 days
 - Thousands interviewed during listening campaigns; stories about access to jobs, health care, education
 - Lack of coordination city to suburb, suburb to suburb
- Public Meetings
 - Meetings of 1,000 (2001) and 5,000 people (2002)
- Surveys
 - U of M students April 2003

U of M DARTA PROJECT

University of Michigan Political Science

Students:

Christina Beaty

Jennifer Curry

Joanna Ford

Under the direction of Dr. Greg Markus



Areas and Groups Targeted

- Oakland County

Pontiac Senior Center, Royal Oak
Burton Tower , Southfield Adult
Recreation, Franklin H.S. PTA,
Troy Athens H.S. PTA, Oakland
Elem. PTA

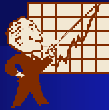
- Wayne County

Dearborn Kiwanis , Livonia
Early Risers, Sheldon Park
Seniors, Dearborn Senior
Center

- Macomb County

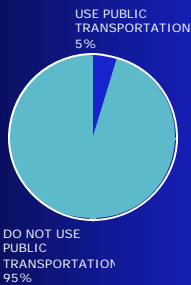
Sterling Heights Kiwanis,
Warren Kiwanis

RESULTS

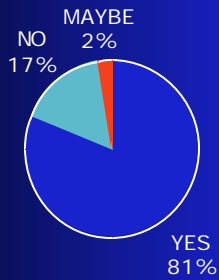


Sample data consists of 252 residents
from target areas

Are you currently a public transportation user?



Would you use public transportation if it was more efficient?

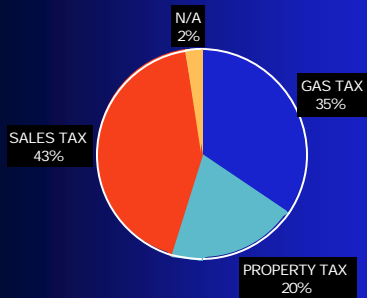


If DARTA were placed on the ballot, would it be motivation to vote?

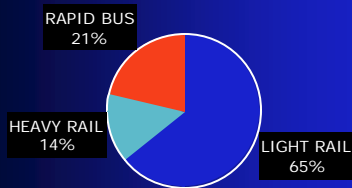
- 93% = YES
(234 people)
- 7% = NO
(18 people)



IF DARTA legislation is passed, what form of funding would you prefer?



What form of public transportation system would you be most in favor of?



Findings

- Findings
 - Strong sense of moral obligation attached to public transit
 - Strong desire for choice (rail, airport)
 - Not willing to pay if...
 - Just busses
 - Just property tax
 - Willingness to pay if ...
 - Safe
 - Different (rail)
 - Comprehensive, coordinated
 - Gas, sales or other tax

Next Steps

- Over coming disillusionment
- Plan and Voter referendum
- Elections in 2004